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### Health, well-being and inequality over the long term

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# Propositions

belonging to the doctoral dissertation

Health, well-being and inequality over the long term

by

Daniel Gallardo Albarrán

1. Citizens' lives have greatly improved during the 20<sup>th</sup> century in terms of income and health, but the uneven pace of improvement has led to substantial cross-country inequality. Understanding the drivers and consequences of these forces is foundational to understanding how the large income and health inequalities we observe today were shaped.
2. Citizen's well-being is a much broader concept than their income. Focusing only on material living standards would have missed how people's lives were transformed in terms of health, leisure and inequality in the first half of the 20th century. (Chapter 2).
3. Contrary to recent periods, the importance of physical and human capital accumulation has long been as important as total factor productivity in accounting for between-country income inequality (Chapter 3).
4. Considering the effects of health on workers' productivity is both important for accounting for income inequality since 1900 and a source of income convergence after the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (Chapter 4).
5. The joint effect of water and sewerage systems explains a significant part of the mortality decline in Germany during the period 1877-1913 (Chapter 5).
6. The idea that diseases were transmitted through vapors instead of germs delayed the proper provision of basic services such as piped water and sanitation (Chapter 5).

7. We seem to be on the verge of a period of health divergence as progress in life expectancy in less developed economies has slowed down during the last decades. The potential welfare and productivity gains from avoiding another period of health divergence are enormous, and this should be a priority of global policy leaders.
8. Inspiring sentences during the early phase of your doctoral studies can greatly influence your research topic. For this thesis, that sentence was: “To exclude the imputation for increased life expectancy in measuring the rate of economic growth of certain poor countries is to overlook half of the economic growth and to misrepresent economic history on a very large scale.” (Usher, 1973: p. 225).
9. “Once one starts to think about [growth], it is hard to think about anything else.” (Lucas, 1988: p. 5).